

**TOWN OF SHREWSBURY
REPORT OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

May 16, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 P.M. at the Shrewsbury High School auditorium when the moderator announced a quorum of town meeting members in attendance. The official checklist showed 211 town meeting members present, including members at large.

As the first order of business the moderator examined the warrant and the constable's return and asked for and received unanimous consent to waive the reading of the warrant.

The moderator led the assembly in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

A procedural motion presented by the moderator was moved and seconded and it was

VOTED that each session of the 2005 Annual Town Meeting shall adjourn for the evening not later than 10:30 P.M. provided that any motion before the meeting at that time shall be completed and shall reconvene on Wednesday, May 18th at 7:00 P.M. and further on Thursday, May 19th at 7:00 P.M.

Newly elected town meeting members present were sworn to the faithful performance of their duties.

An asterisk indicates articles recommended by the Finance Committee.

Article 1: Reports of Town Officers and Committees

High School/Middle School Building Committee

Oak Street Middle School

Last year I informed Town Meeting that our general contractor, Standen Corporation, had voluntarily defaulted and the surety, St. Paul Company, had hired Jackson Construction to complete the work. Jackson lost about three months in transition but had committed to complete the work on schedule. Jackson got off to a fast start, rehired most of the existing contractors and brought in new subs as needed and the work proceeded well for a few months.

Within a short period after Jackson took control the electrical subcontractor's financial situation worsened and eventually that company defaulted. Jackson hired Coghlin Electric. For the next half year, Coghlin Electric averaged fifty workers on the job and made up over half the daily work force. Primarily through the efforts of Coghlin Electric, the Oak Middle school opened up on a limited basis for the start of the school year last September. Initially the cafeteria, gym, auditorium and a portion of the academic classrooms were not available. Oak Street principal Dr. Lobban, and his staff, did a fantastic job managing this highly disruptive situation and made it work. The cafeteria opened a few months later and the remainder of the academic areas in January this year. Despite assurances that the work would be complete, it is not. Financial issues between Jackson and the surety resulted in extremely slow payments to subcontractors and most work stopped with the exception of a skeleton crew from last fall to present time. An extraordinary punch list remains, as does a considerable amount of site work. The Town is withholding funds for the work associated with the punch list as well as money incurred for additional consulting and out of pocket costs.

Despite these issues, the project remains on or under the \$22,000,000 budget. We plan to bring the project in at approximately \$20,000,000. The Town plans to complete the project should the general contractor default.

I would like to acknowledge the extraordinary cooperation between the Building Committee, School Committee, Fire Chief LaFlamme, Building Inspector Ron Alarie and

the school administration. We would not have opened the school last September without the complete cooperation of all those involved.

High School

We continue to pursue outstanding issues at the High School, appreciably in the areas of flooring in main corridors, landscaping, athletic fields and the condition of the rock face along the access road. We believe that we will resolve these outstanding legal disputes this year and the associated corrective work should be completed by year's end. The project should be ready for State audit in early 2006.

Sherwood Avenue Middle School

In May of 2003, Town Meeting approved \$485,000 to undertake a design study for the Sherwood Avenue Middle School. The Sherwood Avenue Middle School is a three story, 88,000 SF facility with a design capacity of 700 students built in 1964. The purpose of the project was to find the best method of either addition-renovation or new facility to house an 1100 student population by September 2008. The services of an architect, LPA, and project manager PMA, were retained. The Project Manager informed the Building Committee that the cost of the project was between \$29 - \$36M. In light of the project cost, slower growth in the middle school population for the next few years and a moratorium on State reimbursement until midyear 2007, the Building Committee and School Committee decided to postpone the project for a period of at least one year. Approximately \$189,000 of the \$485,000 budget was spent on consulting services.

Respectfully submitted,
Henry Fitzgerald
Building Committee Chairperson

High School and Middle School Committee Members;

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Dr. Anthony Bent | Daniel Morgado |
| Maurice DePalo | Sandra McManus |
| John Masiello | Robert Cox |
| Richard Carney | Pasquale Sacco |

Sherwood Avenue Committee Members;

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Dr. Anthony Bent | Daniel Morgado |
| John Lebeaux | Katherine Nash |
| Richard Carney | Robert Cox |

VOTED a motion to accept the report of the High School/Middle School Building Committee.

***Article 2: Wright and Harlow Charitable Fund**

VOTED a motion that the following individuals be named trustees of the Wright and Harlow Charitable Fund:

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|-------------------|-------------------|
| Carlo P. Alano | Raymond G. Harlow |
| Gail E. Claflin | Donald R. Gray |
| Beverly S. Fisher | Dawn M. Shannon |
| Bernice L. Gordon | |

***Article 3: Personnel Bylaw Classification and Compensation Plan**

VOTED a motion to amend the Classification and Compensation Plan and the Consolidated Personnel Bylaw by repealing the salary schedules and the assignment of position classes to compensation grades and by adopting new salary schedules and new assignment of position classes to compensation grades prepared by the Personnel Board and on file in the office of the Town Clerk, and said new salary schedules and the assignment of position classes to be effective on July 1, 2005.

***Article 4: Medical Expenses of Retired Disabled Police Officers & Firefighters**

VOTED the motion as stated to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,252.00 to pay the medical expenses of retired disabled police officers and firefighters.

***Article 5: Transfer from Free Cash to Various Departmental Appropriations**

VOTED a motion to transfer \$523,000.00 from Free Cash to the following departmental appropriations for Fiscal 2005:

| Department | Account | Acct Number | Amount | Reason |
|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| Highway Department | Overtime | 01-0421-03-510090 | \$108,000.00 | Snow and Ice Control |
| | Rental of Equipment | 01-0421-04-520140 | \$210,000.00 | Snow and Ice Control |
| | Repair & Maintenance Parts | 01-0421-05-540010 | \$6,000.00 | Snow and Ice Control |
| | Sand, Stone & Gravel | 01-0421-05-540050 | \$5,000.00 | Snow and Ice Control |
| | Salt & Chemicals | 01-0421-05-540060 | \$134,000.00 | Snow and Ice Control |
| Operating Support | Oil & Fuel | 01-0159-09-540020 | \$60,000.00 | Gasoline & Diesel Fuel Cost Increases |
| Total | | | \$523,000.00 | |

***Article 6: Town Budget Finance Committee Report**

The moderator presented the budget for consideration by the town meeting members under general headings, line items, classifications and department.

The following amendments and changes in the budget were approved by the Finance Committee and voted by the town meeting members.

Personnel Board 119 (page 16)

VOTED a motion to delete under (9) Separately Iden. Apps., the sum of \$500 and insert the sum of \$375,500; to delete under (1 to 9) Grand Total, the sum of \$600 and insert the sum of \$375,600.

Town Manager 123 (page 16)

VOTED a motion to delete under (1) Salaries-Prof.,Exec.,Admin., the sum of \$108,661 and insert the sum of \$111,921; to delete under (1-2-3) Salaries-Grand Total, the sum of \$263,721 and insert the sum of \$266,981; to delete under (1 to 9) Grand Total, the sum of \$273,221 and insert the sum of \$276,481.

Town Clerk 161 (page 18)

VOTED a motion to delete under (1) Salaries-Prof.,Exec.,Admin., the sum of \$67,224 and insert the sum of \$69,241; to delete under (1-2-3) Salaries-Grand Total, the sum of \$139,337 and insert the sum of \$141,354; to delete under (1 to 9) Grand Total, the sum of \$149,167 and insert the sum of \$151,184.

VOTED a motion to raise the sum of \$77,700,458.00 in the following manner:

| | |
|------------------|--|
| \$ 72,861.614.34 | by taxation |
| 1,477,000.00 | by transfer from Free Cash |
| 1,988,000.00 | by transfer from Sewer Surplus and applying \$1,973,844.73 to the Sewer Department budget and \$14,155.27 to Debt and Interest |

| | |
|------------|--|
| 262,767.00 | by accepting said sum from the Municipal Light Department to be applied to Debt and Interest |
| 499,545.00 | by accepting said sum from CATV funds of the Municipal Light Department to be applied to Debt and Interest |
| 10,399.00 | by transfer from the Title V Loan Repayment Account (Acct 1910-192000) to be applied to Debt and Interest |
| 89,681 | by transfer from School Building Assistance Aid received in Fiscal Year 2005 to be applied to Debt & Interest |
| 275,000 | by transfer from the Coal Ash Reserve Account and applying it to the Board of Health budget |
| 7,116.64 | by transfer from the project closeout of the Senior High School Design (acct 01-019210-5220550) and applying it to the Public Buildings budget |
| 12,644.78 | by transfer from the project closeout of the Beal Elevator Project (acct 01-019210-520580) and applying it to the Public Buildings budget |
| 41,500 | by transfer from the project closeout of the Modular Classrooms Design Development Project (acct 01-019210-570640) and applying it to the Public Buildings budget |
| 98,899.26 | by transfer from the Beal Elevator Project (May 2000) (acct 01-019210-570780) and applying it to the Public Buildings budget |
| 3,790.98 | by transfer from the project closeout of the Paton Fire Alarm System Project (acct 01-019210-570780) and applying it to the Public Buildings budget |
| 67,500.00 | by transfer from the project closeout of the High School (Oak Street) Resurface Tennis Courts Project (acct 01-019210-571030) and applying it to the Public Buildings budget |
| 5,000.00 | by transfer from the project closeout of the Modular Classrooms Project (acct 01-019210-585330) and applying it to the Public Buildings budget |

and accepting the same to the various departments and purposes as specifically set forth in detail in the report of the Finance Committee as amended except that the items 1, Salaries - Professional, Executive, Administrative, 2, Salaries - Secretarial and Clerical, and 3, Salaries - All Other, be combined under Salaries Grand Total 1-2-3 and considered as one appropriation for all budgets and that line items 4, Contractual Services, 5, Supplies and Materials, and 6, Other Expenses, be combined under total 4,5,6, and considered as one appropriation for all budgets and further appropriate all receipts and other sums of money in accordance with and as recommended in said report as amended, and do further move that, in accordance with Chapter 41, Section 108 of the General Laws, the salaries of all elected town officers be fixed at the amounts and rates set forth in the Finance Committee's report, as amended, effective from July 1, 2005, and all salaries and wages are hereby made effective from July 1, 2005 said wages and salaries to be at the rates set in the Classification and Compensation Plan and the Consolidated Personnel Bylaw in effect July 1, 2005 that said report, as amended, be received and placed on file and that the sum of \$77,320,179.00 appearing in the Fiscal 2006 printed grand total of all departmental budgets be deleted and the sum of \$77,700,458.00 be substituted in place thereof.

Adjournment:

VOTED at 10:35 P.M. a motion to adjourn to Wednesday, May 18, 2005 at 7:00 P.M.

ATTEST:

Ann M. Dagle
Town Clerk

